



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

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For Immediate Release:

Columbia Man Sentenced to 25 years for Shooting at a Man Over a Parking Spot

Howard County, MD (May 15, 2019) – Cornelius Harcum, age 48, pleaded guilty to charges of first-degree assault and felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced today by Circuit Court Judge Richard S. Bernhardt to a total of 40 years in prison, suspending all but 25 years.

During the early morning hours on January 21, 2019, Howard County Police responded to a shooting in the 6300 block of Red Haven Road in Columbia. When officers arrived, they spoke with two of the victims, both of whom came together in a vehicle to attend a party in the area. They told police they parked their vehicle in a parking spot. As soon as they parked their vehicle, Harcum approached them stating, "This is my wife's spot and you're going to move." Within seconds of making that statement, Harcum pointed a handgun at one of the victims and fired multiple shots. The first gunshot went over the victim's head, the second and third shot struck the rear of the victim's vehicle. According to the victims, Harcum left the scene and walked back toward the direction of houses in the area. Harcum then drove off in his vehicle.

Investigation into Harcum's background revealed several criminal charges from 1995 to 2001, which disqualified him from possessing a regulated firearm. Harcum was sentenced to 40 years in prison, suspending all but 25 years of incarceration, and 5 years of supervised probation upon release. Judge Bernhardt also ordered Harcum to pay restitution to the victim for vehicle damages.

Assistant State's Attorneys' Maurice C. Frazier and Elizabeth M. Rosen prosecuted the case.

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